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Message Text

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43
ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 ACDE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-07

NRC-05 OES-03 FEAE-00 SAJ-01 ERDA-05 ERDE-00 EUR-12

/099 W
---------- 056405
O 161400Z JUN 75
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9813
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
USMISSION IAEA VIENNA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 4803

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG; TECH; PARM; BR; GW
SUBJECT: BRAZIL/FRG NUCLEAR AGREEMENT

RIO ALSO FOR TUCH

REF: A. STATE 129371; B. BRASILIA 4382;
C. STATE 134226; D. BRASILIA 4675

1. SUMMARY. AFTER FULL REVIEW OF ALL MAJOR
BRAZILIAN NEWSPAPER COVERAGE, EMBASSY IS UNABLE
TO FIND CONFIRMATION OF JUNE 2 UPI DISPATCH
REPORTING THAT ITAMARATY OR OTHER OFFICIAL SOURCES
TOLD UPI THAT BRAZIL INTENDS PNES. FONMIN SILVEIRA'S JUNE 3
STATEMENT (REF B) REMAINS THE AUTHORITATIVE GOB STATEMENT
OF INTENTIONS. UPI'S JUNE 3 DISPATCH NOTED THAT SILVEIRA'S
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STATEMENT CONTRADICTED WHAT A FONMIN SPOKESMAN HAD

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TOLD UPI THE DAY BEFORE. ONLY ONE OTHER REFERENCE TO PNES SPECIFICALLY HAS APPEARED IN THE PRESS - AN ARENA SENATOR'S PROPOSAL TO JOIN TWO RIVER BASINS. NONETHELESS, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT A FONMIN SPOKESMAN COULD WELL HAVE TOLD UPI THAT BRAZIL PLANS PNES. END SUMMARY.

2. A REVIEW OF ALL MAJOR BRAZILIAN NEWSPAPERS COVERAGE HAS NOT TURNED UP ANY CONFIRMATION OF THE JUNE 2 UPI DISPATCH THAT (ACCORDING TO EMBASSY'S COPY): "A SPOKESMAN FOR THE FONMIN TOLD UPI 'BRAZIL INTENDS TO DETONATE NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES.'" FONMIN SILVEIRA'S WRITTEN STATEMENT THE NEXT DAY (JUNE 3, REF B), WHICH GAVE ASSURANCES AGAINST THE DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES IN TERMS OF THE FRG/GOB AGREEMENT, REMAINS THE AUTHORITATIVE GOB STATEMENT OF INTENTIONS WITH RESPECT TO PNES IN TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT. ACKNOWLEDGING THIS, A JUNE 3 UPI DISPATCH OPENED (ACCORDING TO EMBASSY'S COPY) WITH: "FONMIN SILVEIRA SAID TUESDAY BRAZIL WOULD NOT MANUFACTURE NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES CONTRADICTING AN EARLIER REPORT BY HIS TOP SPOKESMAN WHO TOLD UPI ON MONDAY, 'BRAZIL INTENDS TO DETONATE NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES.'"

3. TWO BRAZILIAN NEWSPAPERS REPORTED ON JUNE 4 THAT A DIPLOMATIC SOURCE POINTED OUT THAT NONE OF THE NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY (IN THE AGREEMENT) COULD BE USED TO "FABRICATE ANY TYPE OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE." ALSO, ACCORDING TO O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, SILVEIRA SAID AT AN AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE IN SAO PAULO THAT THE AGREEMENT IS NOT "CONTEMPLATING IN ANY MANNER NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS."

4. ONLY ONE COMMENT SPECIFICALLY ADDRESSED TO PNES HAS APPEARED IN THE BRAZILIAN PRESS. THE JUNE 8 EDITION OF JORNAL DO BRASIL REPORTED THAT ARENA SENATOR JARBAS PASSARINHO (WHO IS CLOSE TO THE BRAZILIAN MILITARY AND A LEADING MEMBER OF THE GOVERNMENT PARTY) SUGGESTED THE USE OF ATOMIC ENERGY TO JOIN THE ORINOCO AND AMAZON BASINS THROUGH THE CACIQUIARI CANAL.

5. NO NEWS REPORTS HAVE DEALT SPECIFICALLY WITH THE QUESTION OF WHETHER, IF THE BRAZILIANS MASTERED THE GERMAN TECHNOLOGY AND DESIGNED AND BUILT THEIR OWN EQUIPMENT, THEY COULD MOVE TO NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS. ONE STORY, A DISPATCH FROM BONN IN THE CONFIDENTIAL

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JUNE 11 EDITION OF JORNAL DO BRAZIL, DID, HOWEVER, NOTE THIS POSSIBILITY IN A GENERAL SENSE BUT THE IMPLICATIONS FOR PNES SPECIFICALLY WERE NOT DEVELOPED IN THE STORY. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, UNIDENTIFIED GERMAN AUTHORITIES "ADMITTED" THAT THE AGREEMENT "WILL NOT OBLIGATE THE BRAZILIANS TO SUBMIT TO INTERNATIONAL SUPERVISION THE PROCESS WHICH ENRICHES URANIUM IF THEY (THE BRAZILIANS) DEVELOP IT WITH THEIR OWN EQUIPMENT... ONLY THE URANIUM BOUGHT FROM THE GERMANS WOULD BE SUBJECT TO

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SUCH CONTROL."

6. COMMENT: A) AS THE EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THE CURRENT STATE OF PLAY, THE SILVEIRA STATEMENT ACCURATELY REFLECTS THE COMMITMENT ASSUMED BY THE GOB IN THE PROSPECTIVE AGREEMENTN I. E., NOT TO USE MATERIALS AND FACILITIES ENCOMPASSED IN THE AGREEMENT TO MANUFACTURE NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE.
B) ASIDE FROM SILVEIRA'S STATEMENT IN SAO PAULO AND OTHER OFFICIALS' BACKGROUND COMMENTS TO BRAZILIAN PAPERS, GOB OFFICIALS HAVE SUCCESSFULLY AVOIDED THE ISSUE OF EXPLOSIONS, AIDED IN THIS BY THE LACK OF SOPHISTICATION OF THE BRAZILIAN PRESS AND THE CLAMPS PUT ON UNAUTHORIZED STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS (REF D, PARA 2).
C) EMBASSY HAS NO EVIDENCE THAT PASSARINHO'S SUGGESTION REFLECTS OFFICIAL POLICY, BUT THIS PARTICULAR USE OF PNES HAS BEEN REFERRED TO FROM TIME TO TIME IN THE PAST.
D) GIVEN THE LONG-STANDING DISPOSITION OF THE GOB ON PNES, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT A FONMIN SPOKESMAN, REFLECTING THIS POSITION AND NOT REALIZING THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE CURRENT SITUATION OF WHAT HE WAS SAYING, MAY INDEED HAVE MADE THE STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO HIM IN UPI'S JUNE 2 DISPATCH. FURTHER, THE EMBASSY CONSIDERS IT AT LEAST PLAUSIBLE THAT THIS STATEMENT MAY HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE CLARIFYING FORMAL STATEMENT ISSSUED BY SILVEIRA THE NEXT DAY.
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